



State Aid to Local Governments - Harford County

Operating Budget

Type of Aid	FY 2015 Funding	Conference Committee Plan (FY 2016 Appropriation)	Change Over FY 2015 Appropriation	Percent Change from FY 2015 Appropriation
Education Aid	\$203,118,000	\$204,387,000	\$1,269,000	0.6%
Libraries	\$1,450,000	\$1,483,000	\$33,000	2.3%
Community Colleges	\$11,211,000	\$11,370,000	\$159,000	1.4%
Health	\$1,936,000	\$2,116,000	\$180,000	9.3%
*Transportation	\$2,678,000	\$3,018,000	\$341,000	12.7%
**Public Safety	\$3,256,000	\$3,187,000	-\$69,000	-2.1%
***Recreation/Environment	\$834,000	\$944,000	\$110,000	13.1%
Shared Taxes	\$0	\$125,000	\$125,000	
Total	\$224,482,000	\$226,630,000	\$2,148,000	1.0%

Source: Department of Legislative Services

*Transportation includes Highway User Revenue, Municipal and other transportation grants.

**Public Safety includes Police, Fire and Rescue Aid

***Recreation/Environment includes Program Open Space and Nutrient Removal funds

Operating and Capital Budget – Harford County – Difference from Governor’s FY 2016 Allowance

Type of Aid	Governor’s Plan (FY 2016 Allowance)	Conference Committee Plan (FY 2016 Appropriation)	Change Over Governor’s Allowance	Percent Change from FY 2016 Allowance
Total Operating Support	\$222,360,000	\$226,630,000	\$4,270,000	1.9%
Total Capital Support	\$16,886,000	\$17,736,000	\$850,000	5.0%
Total	\$239,246,000	\$244,366,000	\$5,120,000	2.1%



Capital Budget - Harford County

State Aid to Local Government – Harford County Capital Budget Support

Harford County Public Schools

Center for Educational Opportunity	Construction	\$2,425,000
Churchville Elementary School	Construction	\$495,000
Prospect Mill Elementary School	Construction	\$2,391,000
Youth's Benefit Elementary School	Construction	\$3,998,000

Harford Community College

Edgewood Hall Renovation	Construction	\$4,129,000
Regional Workforce Development Center	Design	\$1,372,000
Right Turn Lane –Nursing Building	Construction	\$576,270

Harford County Public Libraries

Havre De Grace Library	Construction	\$1,000,000
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Harford County Bond Bills and Grant Funding

Agricultural Research and Exposition Foundation	\$150,000
Ladew Topiary Gardens	\$100,000
Regional Fire and Rescue Boat	\$100,000
Ripken Stadium Infrastructure	\$500,000

Total – Capital Projects	\$17,736,270
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Legislative Priorities - Harford County

Legislative Priorities – Passed Legislation

Taxes and Revenues

Senate Bill 443, Harford County – Charitable Gaming

Senate Bill 443 authorizes nonprofit organizations that have been located in Harford County for at least three years to hold gaming contests in the county. A gaming contest involves a card game, dice game, or roulette. The bill prohibits permit holders from conducting more than four gaming contests per year and requires a separate permit for each casino event. A person who violates the provisions of the bill is ineligible to receive a permit for a period of five years.

Senate Bill 905, Income Tax – Film Production Activity Tax Credit

Senate Bill 905 repeals the termination date of the film production activity tax credit program and specifies that the amount of credits that the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) can award in each fiscal year beginning in fiscal 2017 cannot exceed the amount of money appropriated to a reserve fund established by the bill. The bill states that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the appropriation to the reserve fund equal the amount DBED reports as necessary to maintain the current level of film production activity in the State and to attract new film production activity to the State.

Senate Bill 190, Sales and Use Tax, Taxable Price, Accommodations

Senate Bill 190 is intended to clarify current law with regards to the definition of taxable price. An accommodation is defined as a right to occupy a room or lodgings as a transient guest. An accommodations provider is a person that owns, operates, or manages an accommodation and makes the accommodation available for sale or use to a buyer. An accommodations intermediary is a person, other than an accommodations provider, who facilitates the sale or use of an accommodation and charges a buyer the taxable price for the accommodation. A person is considered to facilitate the sale or use of an accommodation if the person brokers, coordinates, or in any other way arranges for the sale or use of an accommodation by a buyer.

Education

Senate Bill 595, Public Charter School Improvement Act of 2015

Senate Bill 595 alters State law regarding the establishment and operation of public charter schools. The bill alters existing requirements for public charter schools. It also establishes new requirements and authorizes certain options for targeting specified student populations when making student placements at a public charter school. The bill provides greater flexibility in operations to certain eligible public charter schools that have existed for at least five years and meet specified conditions. The role of the Maryland State Board of Education as a chartering authority is eliminated and its authority in appeals is clarified. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), must contract for a study of the amount of funding provided to public charter schools and other public schools by local school system.

Business Affairs

House Bill 328, Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Applications for Licenses

House Bill 328 repeals the requirement that every application for an alcoholic beverages license filed in Harford County must contain a certificate that (1) is signed by at least 10 citizens who are owners of real estate and registered voters of the precinct in which the business is to be located; (2) states the length of time each signer has known the applicant, or, in the case of a corporation, with the individuals making the application; (3) states that they have examined the application and that they believe that all the statements contained in this application are true; and (4) states that they believe the applicant is a suitable person to obtain the license. The bill also repeals the requirement that the certificate must have a statement that the signers are familiar with the premises where the proposed business will be located and that they believe the location and building are suitable for the business of selling alcoholic beverages.

House Bill 329, Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Inspectors

House Bill 329 authorizes the Harford County Liquor Control Board and general manager to appoint alcoholic beverages inspectors as necessary to provide appropriate control over newly created alcoholic beverages licensees. The bill repeals a provision that limits the board and general manager to appointing, in addition to inspectors serving prior to July 1, 1979, additional inspectors as necessary to provide appropriate control over newly created Class A off-sale licensees.

House Bill 399, Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class DBR License

House Bill 399 establishes a Class DBR license in Harford County. The annual license fee is \$500. The Harford County Board of License Commissioners may issue a Class DBR license to a holder of a Class 5 manufacturer's (brewery) license. A Class DBR license serves as the on-site consumption permit and the license equivalent to a Class D license. The bill authorizes the holder of a Class DBR license

to sell beer brewed at the brewery, but caps the sale of beer for on-premises consumption at 500 barrels per year. A license holder may not sell beer for off-premises consumption beyond what is allowed under the license holder's Class 5 manufacturer's (brewery) license. A license holder is not required to sell food, but is required to provide prepackaged snacks. The bill also establishes provisions relating to the hours of sale and future minimum capital investment requirements.

House Bill 527, Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Residency Requirements

House Bill 527 repeals Chapter 644 of 2014, which altered residency requirements for certain business entities applying for alcoholic beverages licenses in Harford County. The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

House Bill 845, Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class B Café Licenses

House Bill 845 authorizes the Harford County Liquor Control Board to issue a special Class B Cafe beer, wine, and liquor license in Harford County under specified circumstances. The annual license fee is \$3,000. The special license authorizes the holder to sell beer and wine for consumption on or off the licensed premises and liquor for consumption on the licensed premises. A special cafe license is a seven-day license with an on-premises wine tasting privilege for every day of the year. In addition, the special license may be used for off-premises catering. The bill also repeals the statutory limit on the number of existing Class B Cafe beer and wine licenses that may be issued, requires the board to set the maximum number of such licenses that it may issue, and allows the license to be used for off-premises catering.

Environment

Senate Bill 863, Watershed Protection and Restoration Programs - Revisions

Senate Bill 863 makes various changes to provisions relating to Chapter 151 of 2012, which required a county or municipality that is subject to a specified federal storm water permit to collect a storm water remediation fee and establish a local watershed protection and restoration program and fund. Among other things, the bill repeals the *requirement* for such jurisdictions to collect a storm water remediation fee, and instead *authorizes* such jurisdictions to do so. The bill exempts Montgomery County from these provisions but establishes separate provisions pertaining to the county with similar requirements. Among other things, the bill also (1) requires local fund revenues to be used for additional, rather than existing, activities; (2) authorizes jurisdictions to charge a fee to the State under specified conditions; (3) establishes provisions that provide relief from the fee for specified organizations under certain conditions; (4) requires jurisdictions to file an annual financial assurance plan, which is subject to a hearing and review process; and (5) specifies that if such a plan is insufficient, the jurisdiction may not receive specified State funding.

Government Liability and the Courts

House Bill 113, Local Government Tort Claims Act – Limits on Liability

House Bill 113 increases the liability limits under the Local Government Tort Claims Act (LGTCa) from \$200,000 to \$400,000 per individual claim and from \$500,000 to \$800,000 per total claims that arise from the same occurrence for damages from tortious acts or omissions. The bill requires a claim cannot be brought against a local government or its employees unless the notice of the claim is given with one year.

House Bill 405/Senate Bill 374, Maryland False Claims Act

House Bill 405; (1) prohibits a person from knowingly making a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval by a governmental entity; (2) authorizes a governmental entity to file a civil action against a person who makes a false claim; (3) establishes civil penalties for making a false claim; (4) permits a private citizen to file a civil action on behalf of a governmental entity against a person who has made a false claim; (5) requires the court to award a certain percentage of the proceeds of the action to the private citizen initiating the action; and (6) prohibits retaliatory actions by a person against an employee, contractor, or grantee for disclosing a false claim or engaging in other specified false claims-related activities.

Health and Human Services

House Bill 745/Senate Bill 516, Public Health – Overdose Response Program

House Bill 745 expands the Overdose Response Program within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) by authorizing an advanced practice nurse with prescribing authority or a licensed physician to prescribe and dispense Naloxone to a certificate holder either directly or, under specified circumstances, *under a standing order*. A licensed physician or an advanced practice nurse with prescribing authority who issues a standing order may also delegate authority for dispensing Naloxone to certificate holders. The bill authorizes any licensed health care provider with prescribing authority to prescribe Naloxone to a patient who is believed to be at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose or in a position to assist an individual at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose. The bill establishes legal and civil immunity for specified individuals.

House Bill 896/Senate Bill 607, Joint Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorders

House Bill 896 establishes the 10-member Joint Committee on Behavioral Health and Opioid Use Disorders, which has 5 members from the Senate and 5 members from the House of Delegates. The committee has oversight over the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and State and local programs to treat and reduce behavioral health and opioid use disorders. The purposes of the committee are to (1) review the final report of the Governor's Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force; (2) review and monitor the activities of the Governor's Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordinating Council; (3) evaluate the effectiveness of specified programs, policies, and practices (listed below); (4) review the extent to which health insurance carriers in the State are complying

with federal and State mental health and addiction parity laws; and (5) identify areas of concern, and as appropriate, recommend corrective measures to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 7, Electronic Cigarettes – Sales to Minors – Components, Supplies, and Enforcement

Senate Bill 7 clarifies that the prohibition against selling, distributing, or offering for sale to a minor an electronic nicotine-delivery device includes the sale, distribution, or offer for sale of any component of the device or any product used to refill the device. The bill also clarifies that the prohibition does not extend to a device that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a tobacco cessation product and is being marketed and sold only for that purpose. The bill establishes civil penalties and authorizes law enforcement officers and county health officers to issue civil citations for violations.

Senate Bill 757, Public Health, Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – Required Disclosures

Senate Bill 757 expands the entities to which the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) must disclose prescription drug monitoring data to include, on approval of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and for the purpose of furthering an existing bona fide individual case review, (1) the State Child Fatality Review Team or a Local Child Fatality Review Team; (2) a Local Drug Overdose Fatality Review Team; (3) the Maternal Mortality Review Program; or (4) a medical review committee appointed by or established in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) or a local health department. Prescription drug monitoring information is provided on request of the entity. The bill also clarifies that PDMP must disclose data to the State Board of Physicians (MBP), on issuance of an administrative subpoena voted on by a quorum of *a disciplinary panel* of the board, for the purposes of furthering an existing bona fide investigation of an individual.

Planning and Zoning

House Bill 323/Senate Bill 262, Maryland Building Performance Standards – Modifications – Energy Codes

House Bill 323/Senate Bill 262 requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to adopt modifications to the Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS). The modifications can allow any innovative approach, design, equipment, or method of construction that can be demonstrated to offer performance that is at least the equivalent to the requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC); Chapter 13, “Energy Efficiency,” of the International Building Code (IBC); or Chapter 11, “Energy Efficiency,” of the International Residential Code.

House Bill 353/Senate Bill 94, State Government – Automated Mapping –Geographic Information Systems Services Costs

House Bill 353 repeals the authority of governmental units to: (1) to adopt a fee structure for providing automated mapping-geographic information system (GIS) services and (2) to sell GIS services to the general public for a fee reflecting the cost of providing the GIS services. The bill also repeals the requirement that (1) only a person who has entered into a contract with a governmental unit may have online access to the geographic data in a system under the terms of the contract; (2) copy privileges must be specified in the contract; and (3) online access is limited and may not include the ability to enter, alter, or delete data or to

access information that would otherwise be denied under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA). The bill authorizes a governmental unit to charge an additional fee of up to \$50 for GIS products.

House Bill 919/Senate Bill 551, Land Use – Plans – Development and Adoption

House Bill 919, applicable to noncharter counties and municipalities, authorizes the legislative body of a local jurisdiction to adopt, modify, remand, or disapprove (1) the whole comprehensive plan recommended by the planning commission or a part of the plan; (2) a comprehensive plan for one or more geographic sections or divisions of the local jurisdiction; or (3) an amendment to the comprehensive plan. Public hearing requirements are established (1) for the legislative body before adoption or modification of a plan or plan amendment and (2) for the planning commission before submitting a new recommended plan after a plan or plan amendment is remanded or disapproved by the legislative body. The legislative body is also authorized to hold a public hearing before remanding or disapproving a plan or plan amendment. The time for a legislative body to act before the recommendation of a planning commission is considered approved is extended from 60 days to 90 days, with the availability of no more than one 60-day extension by resolution of the legislative body.

Public Safety and Correction

House Bill 368/Senate Bill 546, Civil Actions – Immunity From Liability – Emergency Medical Care for Drug Overdose

House Bill 368 extends civil immunity under the Good Samaritan Act for acts of ordinary negligence to specified rescue and emergency care personnel administering medications or treatment in response to an apparent drug overdose. The bill's provisions apply to a member of any State, county, municipal, or volunteer fire department, ambulance and rescue squad, or law enforcement agency, or a corporate fire department, if the member is (1) licensed or certified by the State Emergency Medical Services Board as an emergency medical services provider and is authorized to administer the medications and treatment under protocols established by the board or (2) certified to administer the medications and treatment under protocols established by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Maryland State Police Medical Director. This civil immunity also applies to a corporation when its fire department personnel are covered by the bill's provisions. The bill applies prospectively to causes of action arising on or after the bill's October 1, 2015 effective date.

Legislative Priorities – Failed Legislation

Taxes and Revenue

House Bill 964, Sales and Use Tax – Snack Tax Food Application

House Bill 964 would have imposed the State sales and use tax on snack food by repealing the current exemption. “Snack food” is defined as potato chips and sticks, corn chips, pretzels, cheese puffs and curls, pork rinds, extruded pretzels and chips, popped popcorn, and specified snack mixtures. This bill would have significantly impacted Frito Lay, a major Harford County employer. Harford County Government opposed the bill in committee.

Education

House Bill 966, Education – Community Colleges – Collective Bargaining

House Bill 966 would have established a collective bargaining process for local community college and Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) employees including full-time faculty, part-time faculty, and staff, but excluding officers, supervisory or confidential employees, and student assistants. Specified employees may bargain collectively over wages, hours, other terms and conditions of employment, and the procedures for dues and fees to be charged by the representative. Disputes on these issues may be settled through mediation and fact finding. The bill requires the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board (SHELRB) to define the bargaining units; conduct elections; serve as the mediator, if necessary; and perform other functions. This bill was opposed by Harford Community College and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges.

Transportation and Public Works

House Bill 796, Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority – Executive Director and General Counsel – Appointment and Compensation

House Bill 796 would have required the Governor, rather than the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA), to appoint an executive director and a general counsel (or provide for alternative legal services), both of which are to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, rather than NMWDA. The bill also requires NMWDA to recommend to the Governor the compensation for the executive director and any general counsel, rather than allowing NMWDA to determine compensation. Harford County Government opposed the legislation in committee.

Senate Bill 509, Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority - Purpose, Appointments, and Compensation

Senate Bill 509 would have altered the purpose of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA) by removing references to assisting participating entities with the generation of energy and adequate waste disposal and, instead, including references to assisting those entities with promoting or encouraging resource management and resource retrieval programs, the implementation of a zero waste hierarchy, and the establishment of resource recovery parks. The bill defines “resource recovery park” and “zero waste hierarchy.” The bill also requires the Governor, rather than NMWDA, to appoint an executive director and a general counsel (or provide for alternative legal services), both of which are to serve at the pleasure of the Governor, rather than NMWDA. Finally, the bill would have required the NMWDA to recommend to the Governor the compensation for the executive director and any general counsel, rather than allowing NMWDA to determine compensation. Harford County Government opposed the legislation in committee.

Planning and Zoning

House Bill 1210, Public Safety – Maryland Building Performance Standards – Adoption, Implementation, and Enforcement of Modifications

House Bill 1210 would have expanded the state and local adoption time frames of the Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS). The MBPS is mandated to consist of the latest edition of the International Building Code (IBC), the International Residential Code (IRC) and International Energy Conservation Code as produced by the International Code Council (ICC). ICC maintains the code development process for the entire model I- Codes that are produced. Each I-Code is updated once every three years through an accredited governmental consensus process.